

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 13, 2003 LB 114, 257

please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 114 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next item on the agenda.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 257 was introduced by Senator Bromm. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 13, referred to the Government Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with no committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, you're recognized to open on LB 257.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. LB 257 was brought to my attention by the Secretary of State, John Gale. And it slightly expands the statutory duties of the State Records Board, to allow local government participation in the State Records Board grant programs. The State Records Board, as many of us may not realize exactly what they do, but they're really charged and have become much more active in the last few years with maintaining the Internet portal or access to government information here throughout the state. This board is chaired by the Secretary of State, and it has 12 members, including the Governor. The Records Board works primarily with government entities, but has expanded its scope to providing electronic access to local government records through the county web site project. This bill would give board permissive authority to provide grants to these local governments that want to expand electronic access to government information. This could include any information that might be available at your county courthouse now, but might be available electronically if certain things were done. And it always takes some money to do that. And the State Records Board might, if they have the cash funds in their cash account, provide some grants to assist with that project. Currently, the board is restricted to working with the network manager for such programs. This would allow local government to, if they were able to receive any of this grant